

Newburgh, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today visited Newburgh Metals, Inc., a local precision sheet metal product manufacturer, to discuss five steps he is taking to boost the manufacturing sector in Orange County and throughout the country.

"Our primary focus here is creating good jobs that can support Orange County families," said Hinchey. "We know from a recent New York Department of Labor report that the highest paying jobs in our area are in the manufacturing sector. That's why I'm visiting and meeting with local entrepreneurs and owners of small businesses throughout my district to discuss what we can do to boost this sector. In the last six months, we've seen the creation of more than 135,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide. It's an encouraging sign, but it's not enough. I've therefore laid out five things that need to be done immediately to help workers in New York and elsewhere find good paying jobs that can't be exported."

Angel Rivera, who has more than 30 years of experience in the sheet metal fabrication industry, started Newburgh Metals in 2000 and expanded the company over time to 59 employees. The company's facility is capable of an array of sheet metal services, from design, prototyping and forming, to welding, machining and finishing. The products manufactured include custom lighting, medical cabinets, displays and kiosks as well as components for commuter trains, solar panels and the entertainment industry. Hinchey was introduced to the company at a recent meeting and tour at the Orange County Business Accelerator, which has worked with Newburgh Metals in developing new industry partnerships.

Hinchey laid out five key policy areas where improvements are needed to help businesses like Newburgh Metals:

1. Rebuild our Nation's Infrastructure - By investing in roads, bridges and rail capacity, Hinchey stated that we will create jobs up and down the supply chain at places like Newburgh Metals, which fabricate a wide range of products, including floors and ceilings for rail cars.

2. Provide Tax Relief to Help Businesses Create Jobs - Hinchey echoed President Barack Obama's call to allow companies like Newburgh Metals to fully deduct capital investments through the end of 2011. The proposal would allow companies to better afford and invest in new equipment to expand their operations. Hinchey also said the HIRE Act, which he strongly supported, is already providing a \$1,000 tax credit and other tax benefits each time a business

hires new workers.

3. Expand Small Business Lending - When the financial markets collapsed, big banks stopped lending to small businesses. That's why Hinchey voted to create a Small Business Lending Fund (SBLF), which leverages up to \$300 billion in loans for small businesses through a \$30 billion lending fund for small and medium-sized community banks that focus on lending to small firms. The legislation is currently being blocked in the Senate by a handful of Republicans and is fully paid for in part by closing tax loopholes that encourage companies to ship jobs overseas.

4. Build Strategic Partnerships and Business Clusters - Hinchey, who helped found The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) to build partnerships between local universities and solar energy start-ups, said that we need a more cooperative and coordinated approach to job creation. TSEC has already been credited with the creation of over 400 local jobs, with another 1000 new jobs expected by the end of next year. To build on these efforts, TSEC representatives were on hand to discuss what partnerships could be established with Newburgh Metals. To help replicate the success of TSEC across the country, Hinchey is also working to pass the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act, which would direct the Department of Labor to help develop partnerships similar to TSEC in other sectors.

5. Develop a Comprehensive Manufacturing Strategy - In addition to correcting our trade agreements to ensure they include standards to protect American workers and our environment, Hinchey said he has voted to pass the National Manufacturing Strategy Act, which would require a comprehensive analysis of the nation's manufacturing sector every four years and would direct the president to submit to Congress a National Manufacturing Strategy.

Hinchey also highlighted several additional bills he has supported to boost U.S. manufacturing:

The U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act, H.R. 4380, was signed into law earlier this year to help U.S. manufacturers compete at home and abroad through over 600 tariff suspensions. The bill lowered the cost of doing business and increased the competitiveness of U.S products, helping to support tens of thousands of American jobs.

The End the Trade Deficit Act, H.R. 1875, establishes an "Emergency Trade Deficit Commission" to examine the nature, causes and consequences of the U.S. trade deficit and make recommendations on reducing trade imbalances.

The Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act, H.R. 5156, helps American businesses to export clean energy technology products and services by implementing a National Clean Energy Technology Export Strategy and providing information needed to navigate foreign markets.

Hinchey has opposed unfair trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) because they cause the exportation of U.S. jobs out of the country. He is a cosponsor of the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment Act (TRADE Act), which would require a comprehensive review of major trade agreements on the books, ensure that environmental labor and human rights standards are addressed in future agreements, and give Congress the authority it needs to assert its proper constitutional role in the trade negotiating process by significantly limiting future fast-track authority.

"One of the most important things we've got to do in order to establish a fair playing field for U.S. manufacturers is to revisit some of the unfair trade deals, which do not include basic labor and environmental standards," said Hinchey. "We must also ensure that other countries, like China, aren't manipulating the value of their currency in order to boost their own manufacturing industry at the expense of our own."

Hinchey is working to end ongoing currency manipulation by China. He recently signed a letter to the House leadership expressing concern about ongoing Chinese currency manipulation and requested that H.R. 2378, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, be brought to the floor for a vote. This legislation would allow for the imposition of countervailing or anti-dumping duties on injurious imports from any country that persistently undervalues its currency.